



Lesson Plan

Title of Lesson: Observing the Prairie	Date: 6/15/2010 Timeframe of Lesson: 1 academic year
Author(s): Mary Koch	School District: St. Francis Campus: Willow Glen Primary School
Subject Area(s): Science, Language Arts	Grade Level(s)/Course: K5
<p>Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards</p> <p><u>Mathematical Thinking</u></p> <p>B.EL.6 Collects, describes and records information using all senses</p> <p><u>Scientific Thinking</u></p> <p>C.EL.1 Uses observation to gather information</p> <p>C.EL.4 Forms explanation based on trial and error, observations and explorations</p> <p>Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:</p> <p><u>Language Arts</u></p> <p>B.4.1 Create or produce writing to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.</p> <p>B.4.2 Plan, revise, edit and publish clear and effective writing.</p> <p>B.4.3 Understand the function of various forms, structures, and punctuation marks of standard American English and use them appropriately in communications.</p> <p><u>Science</u></p> <p>C.4.4 Use simple science equipment safely and effectively, including rulers, balances, graduated cylinders, hand lenses, thermometers, and computers to collect data relevant to questions and investigations.</p>	<p>Subject Specific: <i>St. Francis School District K5 Language Arts Learning Targets</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- interacts in oral language activities to gain an understanding of concepts of print- can generate own ideas in writing and begin to spell semi-phonetically <p>Technology Specific: <i>Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Technology</i></p> <p>A.4.4 Use a computer and communications software to access and transmit information</p> <p>A.4.5 Use media and technology to create and present information</p> <p>D.4.1 Participate productively in workgroups or other collaborative learning environments</p>

<p>Stated Objective(s) Include the focused Instructional Strategy – see chart on page 13.</p>	<p>Students will participate in cooperative learning activities as they create a blog that details the changes observed on our school prairie over the course of a school year. The blog will contain written descriptions of observations, pictures, and other non-linguistic representations of information where appropriate.</p> <p>The focused instructional strategy for this unit is cooperative learning.</p>
<p>Procedures for Lesson</p>	<p>Each year, the K5 students at Willow Glen Primary School learn how to be scientists by studying the school prairie. Students visit the prairie monthly and use their five senses to make observations about the weather, plant life and animal life. Students also use scientific tools (e.g. thermometer, hand lens, ruler) to gather observations. These observations are recorded and revisited over the course of the year so that the students can identify changes over time.</p> <p>This activity provides the perfect opportunity for students to gain experience working on collaborative teams to create and present information about the prairie using a variety of multimedia applications, in an authentic context.</p> <p>In order to produce a prairie blog, the students will be divided up into the following teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific Observers – these students will be responsible for helping the teacher complete the prairie observation form - Writers – these students will be responsible for helping the teacher write the text for the monthly blog post - Photographers/Illustrators – these students will be responsible for taking pictures while out on the prairie and/or using drawing software to produce illustrations to accompany the blog post <p>Teams and the assignments for each team will change monthly, so that all students have the opportunity to work on all three tasks, and work with a variety of their peers.</p> <p>While the teacher expects to provide a high level of support and assistance at the beginning of the year, as the year progresses, students will assume more and more of the responsibility on their teams. For example – at the beginning of the year, the teacher will help the writing team produce a written piece using the shared writing model. By the end of the year, the students on the writing team will produce a written piece as independently as possible.</p>

	The student teams will be responsible for all the content of the blog postings. The teacher will be responsible for maintaining the blog.
Assessment or Evaluation	<p>Students will be evaluated individually based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a hand lens to observe plant life. • Uses a ruler to measure plant life. • Uses sight, hearing, smelling and touch to make observations on the prairie. • Records observations using pictures and words. <p>Each month, each team will be evaluated based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students displayed appropriate listening and speaking skills during group work. • Students worked cooperatively during group work time. • Each student contributed to the work of the group. <p>Over the course of the year, students will also work together as a group to develop a rubric to be used to evaluate the written pieces that go on the blog, as well as a rubric to evaluate the overall quality of the blog.</p>
Enrichment	Depending on the developmental levels of the students, video as a medium may also be explored and included on the blog.
Materials	<p><u>Technology Resources:</u></p> <p>Prairie Blog http://kinderkoch.edublogs.org/ digital camera iPod Nano (to shoot video) TuxPaint or KidPix drawing program</p> <p><u>Other Resources:</u></p> <p>Prairie Observation Form, clipboards for recording observations/making sketches, rulers, thermometers, hand lenses</p>